

14. A method, as recited in claim 13, wherein the molar ratio of said trivalent bismuth salt to said compound is not less than approximately 1:2 nor more than approximately 3:1.

15. A method, as recited in claim 14, wherein said molar ratio is approximately 1:1 to approximately 3:1.

16. A method, as recited in claim 14, wherein said molar ratio is approximately 2:1 to approximately 3:1.

17. A method of preventing the formation or growth of biofilms, comprising the step of:

applying to an area on which it is desired to prevent the formation or growth of biofilms an effective amount of a composition comprising a trivalent bismuth salt and

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at least one compound selected from the group consisting of dimercaprol,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol and dithiothreitol.

5 18. A method of preventing spoilage, comprising the step of:

applying to a product on which it is desired to prevent spoilage an effective amount of a composition comprising a trivalent bismuth salt and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of  
10 dimercaprol,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol and dithiothreitol.

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